

Department for the Aging

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Note: The web addresses (links) in this document may change over time. The Department for the Aging does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors,

Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Bill Peterson

DATE: July 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Summary of State Agency Reports on Progress in Addressing the

Impact of Virginia's Aging Population

As you may remember, each state agency was asked in 2007 to prepare a report on the impact of the growing older population on their ability to provide services (HB 2624). VDA, in turn, was asked to review the individual state agency reports and submit a summary report to the Governor and General Assembly. To see VDA's summary report (and to see the individual state agency reports), go to VDA's website and click on the link in the "What's New" side-bar on the right hand side of the home page. Or click on this link: http://www.vda.virginia.gov/

The report is also posted on the Legislative Information System's website of official agency reports and can be accessed by members of the General Assembly and the general public.

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Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Executive Directors**

Area Agencies on Aging

AND: **Nutrition Directors**

Disease Prevention-Health Promotion Coordinators

FROM: Elaine S. Smith, MS, RD

Program Coordinator

DATE: July 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Fall Prevention Resources

CDC Offers Guides on Preventing Falls

CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control released two guides this year related to preventing falls among Older Adults entitled "Preventing Falls: What Works -A CDC Compendium of Effective Community-based Interventions from Around the World" and "Preventing Falls: How to Develop Community-based Fall Prevention Programs for Older Adults." These guides highlight proven community-based interventions that can reduce falls among older adults and provide information for organizations who would like to implement fall prevention programs. For an electronic copy or to order hard copies of these guides for free, please visit: http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/preventingfalls/

"The WHO Global Report on Falls Prevention in Older Age"

The World Health Organization has released a report discussing the prevalence of falls around the world and provides an action plan for making progress in reducing falls among older adults. It proposes specific strategies for building awareness of the importance of falls prevention and treatment; improving the assessment of individual, environmental, and societal factors that increase the likelihood of falls; and facilitating the design and implementation of culturally-appropriate, evidence-based interventions. that will significantly reduce the number of falls among the older adult population. The report is available at: www.who.int/ageing/publications/Falls prevention7March.pdf

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Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors,

Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Bill Peterson

DATE: July 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Impact of Rising Costs on Older Virginians

Attached is an article that appeared on the webpage of the NBC Affiliate in Charlottesville (Channel 29) quoting your colleague, Gordon Walker, about the impact of rising fuel, food, and other costs on older citizens. Please be sure you send us other articles you come across about this issue so we can keep this issue in front of the Secretary and others. Thanks.

Attachment

<<Back



Rising Costs Affecting Services for Seniors

Posted: July 14, 2008 04:44 PM EDT Updated: July 14, 2008 04:44 PM EDT



The recent spike in the cost of almost everything is causing issues for local senior citizens. And for organizations trying to help, resources are running out.

"Things aren't going to get any better anytime soon," said Marian Dukes, a Charlottesville senior citizen.

The rising cost of fuel, food and healthcare forces Dukes think about every decision she makes. She's one of 2,000 people the Jefferson Area Board for Aging provides services to each year.

"In the last 30 days, 60 days we've had a lot more calls for help," said Dr. Gordon Walker with JABA. "We have people asking for help on their rent; we usually don't get those kinds of calls."

More calls are coming in, but JABA hasn't seen an increase in state or federal funding for the past three years. Now, the sad reality is there isn't enough money to provide for people in need.

"We're having to put people on waiting lists for home delivered meals, and we have a waiting list for air conditioners," said Walker.

Although some can cut back and alter everyday decisions, seniors with health issues often don't have that option. "People need what they need, and that need doesn't go away. This isn't discretionary," said Dr. Jonathan Evans with the University of Virginia Health System.

"At my age I don't change foods. I can't afford to do that," said Dukes.

So for now, without anything to fall back on, many are trying their best just to hold on. "I just have to live with it; I've lived with worse circumstances, so I'll just have to adjust," said Dukes.

In addition to rising costs volunteers are decreasing, as many can't make the extra fuel costs work with tight budgets.

If you'd like to help or learn about volunteer opportunities at JABA, click here.

Reported by Jenn McDaniel See Bio / Email



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Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors

Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Ellen M. Nau, Human Services Program Coordinator

DATE: July 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Virginia Respite Care Grant

Generations Crossing

Generations Crossing announced that its new adult day care center facility, partially funded by the Virginia Respite Care Grant administered by VDA, is scheduled to be completed by October, 2008. Park View Mennonite Church has hosted the Generations Crossing adult day care program since May, 2002. A child day care center will open in the new facility in January 2009. The Generations Crossing Board of Directors has been working to establish an intergenerational center in Harrisonburg, Virginia since 2001.

Generations Crossing successfully raised over \$850,000, including the Virginia Respite Care Grant, to finance building the day care center. Congressman Bob Goodlatte and Ellen Davis, United States Department of Agriculture State Director for Rural Development, presented Generations Crossing with a USDA Rural Development loan for \$1.3 million at a June 3, 2008 ceremony. Estimated cost of the Generations Crossing project is \$2.1 million. For further information contact Laurie Deavers, Executive Director of Generations Crossing at 540-574-3800 or director@generationscrossing.com.

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Virginia Respite Care Grant July 22, 2008 Page 2 of 2

Caregivers Community Network (CCN) – James Madison University

CCN is conducting its *Growing Volunteers* program for summer, 2008. Starting in the summer of 2004, CCN began recruiting young people ages 7-17 to visit elderly persons in Harrisonburg and its environs. The youth are accompanied by a parent, grandparent or adult mentor for the 2-3 hour visits. The friendly visits include sharing stories, taking walks, playing games and enjoying the company of a new acquaintance.

James Madison University students are the major source of volunteers for CCN during the school's fall and spring semesters. Since 2001, The Caregivers Community Network has trained over 625 student and community volunteers who have provided over 18,161 hours of companion care to the elderly of 145 families. An elective course entitled *Issues and Applications of Family Caregiving* is offered at James Madison University to train the volunteers.

For further information on CCN, contact Vickie Landes, Program Director, at 540-568-6682 or landesvl@jmu.edu. For information on the Growing Volunteers Program, contact Kathleen Pantaleo, Program Assistant, at 540-568-3462.





Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors

Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Ellen M. Nau, Human Services Program Coordinator

DATE: July 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Caregiving

Rosalyn Carter Institute

Online registration is now available for the October 23 and 24, 2008 Rosalyn Carter Institute Caregiving Conference, *Raising the Bar: Evidence-Based Programs for Caregivers.* Information on conference topics, presenters, travel and lodging are available at the website: www.rciconference08.org.

The Forgetting: A Portrait of Alzheimer's returns to PBS this August

PBS will be bringing *The Forgetting: A Portrait of Alzheimer's* back to PBS stations this August. With the encore performance on Sunday, August 3 at 9pm ET (check local listings), the 90 minute special will be immediately followed by a new half-hour panel discussion recorded on the eve of the 2008 Alzheimer's Association International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease in Chicago. Actor and Alzheimer's champion David Hyde Pierce, who has experienced this disease first-hand through the illnesses of his grandfather and father, will host this new special, The Future of Alzheimer's. Pierce will moderate a panel of medical experts and scientists as they discuss the latest developments in research, early diagnosis and treatment, and what it all means for patients and their families.

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Caregiving July 22, 2008 Page 2 of 2

The Alzheimer's Association, has assisted the production team in refreshing its outreach initiative around the program. Please visit the resource site at www.tpt.org/theforgetting for materials, and check back in the next few weeks when the final component is added – a Discussion Guide with information on hosting a house party. The companion website for the program is also being updated and is in its final stages of development. Watch for the new and improved site to be launched at the end of July at www.pbs.org/theforgetting.





Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors

Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Linda Nablo, Commissioner

Janet James, Esq., State Legal Services Developer

DATE: July 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Critical Working Meeting to Address the Legal Services Delivery

System for Virginia's Elders – 2 ½ Days August 19th thru 21st

(Days 1 and 2; 10AM to 5PM and Day 3; 9AM to 1PM)

RSVP by August 6, 2008

On behalf of the Virginia Department for the Aging, it is our pleasure to invite you to participate in a **most important** two and a half day **Working Meeting** on **August 19-21, 2008** in Richmond. The **purpose** of the meeting is to bring together the two indispensable groups of leaders in Virginia's elder rights and legal advocacy networks -- AAA and Legal Aid program directors -- to begin a process that will ultimately shape the vision for a model legal delivery system for older Virginians.

An essential first step in this process is to recognize and address the critical importance of collaboration, particularly among AAAs and Legal Aid providers. It is also essential to establish, at the start, a mutual understanding and appreciation of the roles and responsibilities of AoA, VDA, the Legal Services Developer, AAAs, and Legal Aid programs, as well as a mutual understanding of Virginia's new Legal Assistance Service Standard. A **major goal** for this meeting is to provide the forum for AAA and Legal Aid directors to dialogue on these issues, and to begin planning ways for continuing collaboration in envisioning and building a model legal delivery system. In keeping with the OAA, an **equally important goal** is to focus dialogue and brainstorming on the particular challenges of "targeting" -- that is, how best to ensure that the very limited OAA legal resources are directed to those in greatest need of assistance/those least able to advocate on their own behalf, and that priority is given to their most critical legal needs. To accomplish these goals, we need your assistance and hope you will commit to participating yourself, or to having your staff person who works on legal assistance participate.

The first day, Tuesday August 19, is specifically for AAAs and will address: 1) what AAAs see as the greatest strengths/weaknesses in Virginia's current legal delivery system and ideas for building on strengths and addressing weaknesses; 2) any questions or concerns AAAs may have about legal assistance services; and 3) how AAAs envision a high-quality, high impact, cost effective delivery system that effectively targets limited resources to those elders in greatest need.

On **Days Two and Three (August 20 & 21),** AAAs will be joined by the Legal Aid program directors for continued exploration of the current legal delivery system and possibilities for the future. We will also examine and address questions regarding VDA's revised Legal Services Standard, revised reporting requirements/Quick Form, and plans for the Developer to begin monitoring and providing technical assistance to AAAs with regard to their legal programs.

When we adjourn at 1:00 PM Thursday, August 21, we hope to have a set of short-term "next steps" for ongoing communication and collaboration and the beginning of a long-term plan for moving toward the delivery system you envision.

We are fortunate that Penny Hommel and Jim Bergman Co-Directors of The Center for Social Gerontology (TCSG), based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, will assist us in this important effort. As some of you know, TCSG is a long-standing National Support Center in Law and Aging funded by the US Administration on Aging. It has always focused on enhancing legal delivery systems, and is currently working closely with AoA to assist Model Approaches states such as Virginia and Project 2025.

VDA has funds available to cover hotel expense and some meals (continental breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack for days 1 and 2; and continental breakfast on day 3) for one AAA representative from each AAA.

Please let us know if you or your agency's legal program monitor will be able to participate by filling out and returning the enclosed RSVP form by email, fax or mail by August 6, 2008.

Thank you.

RSVP -- AREA AGENCY DIRECTORS

PLEASE RSVP BY FAX OR EMAIL NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2008 TO:

Jackie Taggart
Virginia Department for the Aging
1610 Forest Avenue, Suite 100
Richmond, VA 23229

Phone: (804) 662-9339 • Fax: (804) 662-9354 Email: Jackie.taggart@vda.virginia.gov

I REGRET that neith able to attend.	er our Director nor our staff person who works on legal assistance is	
	REGISTRATION FORM	
Director/Staff Name:		
Organization:		
Street Address:		
City:	State: Zip	
Phone:	Fax:	
E-mail:		
Hotel 1	Teeds:Day 1Day2Not Needed	
	MEETING TIMES AND LOCATION	
	ld at Crown Plaza Richmond West Hotel, 6531 West Broad Street, 0-2013, Telephone (804) 285-9951 (VDA will coordinate hotel	
Wednesday, August	2008, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (AAAs only) 20, 2008, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (AAAs & Legal Aid Directors) 2008, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM (AAAs & Legal Aid Directors)	





Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors

Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Bill Peterson

DATE: July 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Role of State Commissions and Advisory Groups

Attached is a copy of the newest report from the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) on the role of state commissions and advisory groups on aging in the states. This report is based on survey data collected by NASUA.

Please feel free to contact Martha A. Roherty, Executive Director, National Association of State Units on Aging, 202-898-2578, 202-898-2583 (fax), www.nasua.org.

AGING COMMISSIONS IN THE STATES

7/9/2008

Oversight vs. Advisory



Aging Commissions in the States

OVERSIGHT VS. ADVISORY

INTRODUCTION

Several states have appointed Commissions on Aging Services that advise state government officials about aging services and are responsible for oversight of aging services. The Commissions are generally appointed by the Governor or State Legislature. Aging Commission responsibilities include working with legislators shaping public policy, advocating for seniors and identifying and researching emerging issues. In some states, the Aging Commission also covers the disability population.

Several other states have appointed Advisory Commissions on Aging Services that are only responsible for advising state government officials and state agencies about aging services. The Advisory Commissions are also appointed by the Governor or State Legislature.

NASUA conducted a survey of the states to find which states have an aging commission appointed to oversee the provision of Aging Services. Of the states that responded, we found that 20 states have Commissions in place. Of these commissions, five have oversight capacity, and 15 are advisory in nature.

State Examples

Oversight Commissions

Arizona has a Governor's Advisory Council on Aging that oversees the state plan activities. The Arizona Revised Statute 46-183.B reads: The advisory council on aging shall be composed of 15 members appointed by the Governor who shall remove a member for cause. Members appointed to the council shall be selected pursuant to rules adopted by the director which conform to the provisions of the Older Americans Act of 1965 and the federal regulations promulgated pursuant to that act. In addition members shall have a knowledge of, and an established basic interest in, the problems affecting older citizens, and members shall be selected with due regard to geographic and other elements of representation in order that as many divergent views as possible can be represented.

The *California* Commission on Aging is comprised of 15 members appointed by the Governor and General Assembly. This commission is tasked with overseeing the State Plan accomplishments, as well as any other issues identified by the Governor or the Commission.

For more on the California Commission on Aging: http://www.ccoa.ca.gov/

lowa has an Elder Affairs Commission charged with helping the Department of Elder Affairs set broad policy direction, and advocating for policies that improve services to older adults. The Elder Affairs Commission is responsible for setting the State Plan on Aging, and approving the area plans. The Commission approves administrative rules, and is tasked with hearing and judging contested cases against department decisions or policies.

For more on the lowa Elder Affairs Commission: http://www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs/

Nevada has an Aging Commission that is responsible for the following:

- Determining and evaluating the needs of the older people of Nevada.
- Seeking ways to avoid unnecessary duplication of services for older persons by public and private organizations in Nevada.
- Establishing priorities for the work of the Division according to the most pressing needs of older persons, as determined by the Commission.
- Promoting programs that provide community-based services necessary to enable frail elderly persons, to the fullest extent possible, to remain in their homes, to continue as integral members of their family and community.
- Establishing priorities for programs funded under the Older Americans Act.
- Reviewing and approving the state plan for providing services to meet the needs of older persons.
- Gathering and disseminating information in the field of aging.
- Conduct hearings, conferences and special studies on the problems of older persons and on programs which serve them.
- Evaluating existing programs for older persons, recommending needed changes in those programs
 and propose new programs, which would more effectively and economically serve the needs of older
 persons.
- Evaluating any proposed legislation which would affect older persons.
- Recommending to the Legislature any appropriate legislation.
- Coordinating and assisting the efforts of public and private organizations which serve the needs of older persons, especially in the areas of education, employment, health, housing, welfare and recreation.

For more information on the Nevada Aging Commission: http://www.nvaging.net/coa/home.htm

Texas has an overarching Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) which is an operating agency with four other health and human service agencies under it. Those agencies include the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS). The Governor, with the confirmation of the Legislature, appoints the Commissioner of the HHSC. The Commission acts as the oversight umbrella agency. The Commissioner of the Department of Aging and Disability Services reports to the Executive Commissioner of HHS Commission. DADS is responsible for the operation, implementation, and policy implementation with direction from the legislature. DADS is wholly responsible for implementation of any programs associated with OAA, and AOA funding.

Advisory Commissions

Arizona's Commission on Aging is advisory in nature. The Commission members are appointed by the Governor to advise the Governor, Legislature and state agencies on aging issues. The mission of the commission is to improve the lives of aging Arizona residents.

For more information on the Arizona Commission on Aging: http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/

Arkansas has a Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, which is advisory in nature only. It does not oversee aging services. The members of the council are appointed by the Governor.

For more information on the Arkansas Governor's Advisory Council on Aging: http://www.state.ar.us/dhs/aging/gaca.html

Colorado has a Commission on Aging whose goals are:

- To conduct, and encourage others to conduct, studies of problems of the state's older people.
- To assist government and private agencies to coordinate their efforts on behalf of the aging and aged in order that efforts are effective and non-duplicative on behalf of the state's older people.
- To promote and aid in the establishment of local programs and services for the aging and aged for the state's older people.
- To conduct promotional activities and programs of public education on problems of the aging.
- To review existing programs for the aging and make recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly for improvements.
- To advise and make recommendations to the Division of Aging and Adult Services on the problems of and programs for the state's older people.

The Colorado Commission consists of 17 volunteer members appointed by the Governor, with consent of the Senate. The Commission is comprised of: Two persons from each Congressional District (one from each major political party), one person at-large, one from the Senate, and one from the House of Representatives. One of the Congressional District appointees must be from the Western Slope. No more than nine members may be from the same major political party. Appointment to the Colorado Commission is for a four-year term.

For more information on the Colorado Commission on Aging: http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/aas/commissiononaging_index.htm

Connecticut has a Commission on Aging that is located in the legislative branch. The members of the Commission on Aging are appointed by the Governor and the Legislature, as well as ex-officio members from State Agencies. The Commission is charged to advocate on behalf of the present and future elderly, and serve as an objective, credible source of information on the issues affecting them. Its primary responsibilities:-include independent advocacy, critiquing and proposing legislation.

For more information on the Connecticut Commission on Aging: http://www.cga.ct.gov/coa/

Delaware's Commission on Aging serves as an advisory committee to government officials and state agencies. The commission is comprised of 15 members appointed by the Governor. The Commission of Aging is charged with the following:

- Maintaining continual study and analysis of all aging trends and processes.
- Maintaining a continuous inventory of resources relevant to the aged and make them available.
- Serving as a central permanent agency to coordinate programs instituted for the benefit of the aged.
- Providing leadership and direction to persons both offering and receiving aid.
- Serving as a communications clearinghouse for information on the aged.
- Targeting the needs of the aged and address them using available resources.
- Serving as a clearinghouse for federal or state funds available to the aged.
- Fostering interest in and establishment of local community councils to address the same concerns

For more information on the Delaware Commission on Aging: http://archives.delaware.gov/collections/aghist/1500-005.shtml

Georgia's Council on Aging serves as an advisory committee to the Governor, the Legislature and other state agencies. The Council is also charged with advocating on behalf of Georgia's seniors and establishing legislative priorities.

For more information on the Georgia Council on Aging: http://www.gcoa.org/

The *Kentucky* Commission of Senior Citizens is a legislative committee. The commission is staffed by the legislative branch of the state government and serves in an advisory capacity. It was established in 1977 to provide a forum through which the knowledge and experiences of senior citizens may be utilized in dealing with problems affecting senior citizens. The Kentucky Commission has several subcommittees including: Consumer Affairs, Health and Human Services, Insurance, Senior Citizens Executive Committee, Taxation and Transportation

Maryland's Commission on Aging is charged with the responsibility to review and make recommendations to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Aging with respect to ongoing statewide programs and activities.

Michigan's Commission on Services to the Aging is a 15 member body appointed by the Governor, advises the Governor and legislature on coordination and administration of state programs, changes in federal and state programs, and the nature and magnitude of aging priorities. The Commission also reviews and approves grants and participates in development of the state plan and budget as required by the federal Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended. Commission meetings are held monthly and are open to the public.

For more information on the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging: http://www.michigan.gov/miseniors/0,1607,7-234-43230 43289---,00.html

Montana has an Advisory Council which is appointed by the Governor, and is advising the Governor on the needs of aging Montanans. The mission of the Council is to advocates for Montana's aging residents. It does not oversee aging services.

For more information on the Montana Advisory Council on Aging: http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/sltc/services/aging/GAC/Feb07.shtml

North Carolina has a Governor's Advisory Council on Aging reports to the Governor and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The Council is tasked with improving human services to the elderly. They study ways and means of promoting public understanding of the problems of the aging and consider the need for new state programs in the field of aging. The Council is responsible for advising DHHS in the preparation of a plan describing the quality, extent and scope of services being provided, or to be provided to elderly persons. The Council on Aging studies all of the state agencies that provide services for elderly persons, to ensure that there is not overlap or duplication of services.

For more information on the North Carolina Governor's Advisory Council on Aging: http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/gacrcm.htm

Utah has a Commission on Aging that was created by the Legislature in 2005. The Commission, housed within the Governor's office, is charged with addressing how state government and the private sector can prepare for the wave of aging individuals.

For more information on the Utah Commission of Aging: http://aging.utah.edu/utah_coa/index.html

Virginia's Council on Aging is a 19 member advisory board. The members are appointed by the Governor and each chamber of the Legislature. It is tasked with examining the needs of Virginia's elderly, and advising the Governor and the General Assembly on aging issues and the activities of the Virginia Department of Aging. The Advisory Board is also tasked with advocacy for the elderly and to help plan for increasing needs.

For more information on the Virginia Council on Aging: http://www.vda.virginia.gov/council.asp

Washington has a State Council on Aging which provides advice to the Governor, the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS is the State's Medicaid Agency) and the Aging and Disability Services Administration (part of DSHS) on all matters pertaining to policies, programs, and services affecting the quality of life of older persons, with a special concern for the low-income and frail elderly. It also acts to create public awareness of the special needs and potentialities of older persons. Washington's State Council on Aging supports self-advocacy by older citizens of the state through sponsorship of training, legislative and other conferences, workshops and such other methods as may be deemed appropriate.

For more information on the Washington State Council on Aging: http://www.wccoaging.org/

West Virginia has a Commission on Aging that is an advisory rather than oversight board. The Commission meets twice a year and is presented with an overview of new programs, and funding for aging services.

Conclusion

The existing Commissions on Aging have a broad range of responsibilities across the states. The general task of each commission is to advise legislators and the Governor on current practices and emerging needs of the

senior population. In the five (5) states that responded to the survey with oversight of aging services, the primary oversight is targeted toward the state plan and what has been accomplished therein.

NASUA will continue to monitor Aging Commissions and their responsibilities, and provide periodic updates. If your state has a Commission that is not included, please contact NASUA and we will update the report.

For more information:

National Association of State Units on Aging 1201 15th Street, NW Suite 350 Washington, DC 20005 202-898-2578